A PROTESTATION AND DECLARATION AGAINST

The Calling, Ordination, and Settlement of Mr. *Adam Gib*, pretended Preacher, and now inſtalled Incumbent in the Bounds near *Edinburgh*.

Publiſhed at the Tent in the Yard at the Gardeners Hall, near *Edinburgh*.

And a Copy given to Mr. *Alexander Wilſon* of *Perth*, the Ordainer of the ſaid Mr. *Gib*, on *March* 28th, 1741.

By the Friends and Lovers of Truth and Righteouſneſs, and for Liberty and Property, active and paſſive, &c.

JER. xxiii. 21. *I have not ſent theſe Prophets, yet they ran:—*
JUDE 11. *Wo unto them; for they have gone the Way of Cain, and ran greedily after the Error of Balaam for a Reward,—*

LONDON,
Printed for T. TELLTRUTH, at the Sign of the *Burning-Buſh*, by *Plaindealing-Alley*, in *Pilgrim-Street*.
M.DCC.XLI.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE

PREFACE.

THIS Proteſt had not ſo ſoon appeared in publick, after this Manner, were it not for the cunning and deceitful keeping up, and induſtriouſly concealing the ſame from the far greater Part of the confederate Aſſociates, *by a Part of the ſame Tribe, who inhance all to themſelves, and keep ſecret every Thing from the Bulk of their People, leaſt they ſhould ſee with their own Eyes, and be moved with theſe Objections, and either withdraw their Aſſiſtance from, or ſhew their Reſentment againſt the illegal Settlement of Mr.* Gib. *No doubt, at this Adventure all the* ſeceding Hornets *will be aloft, as their Brethren, the* Midianites, *were when their Altar was caſt down, and the Gall of their Hearts, and the Venom of their Tongues will, I believe, on this Account, not be ſpared on this Paper and its Author, it being no leſs than Hereſy and Treaſon with them to touch their Idol, to whom many of them pays more Adoration unto, than ſome doth to their Maker. And 'tis likely others, beſides, who contemns every Thing but the Produce of their own Brains, will be criticizing and carping at the Matter, Manner, and Stile of the ſame; and*

we may gueſs, by their former Railing, and Aſhdod-*like Speeches, what their Sentence will be of this,* viz. The Paper is weak and wicked, and the Author a Fool, *or worſe: But we are, on that Head, very eaſy what they do or ſay; for, with the Prudent, the Verdict of Enemies is never to be regarded, by Reaſon, that nothing will pleaſe the nice, and delicate Taſte of this degenerate Age, but the Flouriſhes of* Rhetorick, *and Words ſet on Edge by Gram-mar-Rules, looking more to the Order of the Words than the Truth and Weight of the Matter; theſe are the chief Ornaments wherewith Error is decored, and busked up withal, and that makes it go the better down, and paſs more currently in the Civil and Eccleſiaſtical Markets at this Day; whereas Truth, in its native Beauty and Simplicity, is deſpiſed: For, whatever Luſtre or Form Truth appears in, whether in an honeſt Plainneſs, or a more re-fined Dreſs, 'tis either Folly or Nonſenſe by the Verdict of Enemies; yea, the very glorious Goſpel is* to the Jews a ſtumbling Block, and to the Greeks Fooliſhneſs; *and* when they call the Maſter of the Houſe Belzebub, how much more they of the Houſhold? *Truth, as it was the firſt, ſo it will be the laſt in the Field, and will triumph over all its Enemies, who will* fade away like the Fat of Lambs, *and be* cut off in their own Wickedneſs; yea, the LORD our GOD ſhall cut them off: But Wiſdom ſhall be juſtified of her Children, *&c.*

A PROTESTATION AGAINST Mr. *Gib* pretended Preacher, &c.

IT is a ſad and woful Condition, when a Land and Nation is brought into theſe miſerable Circumſtances, that *their Teachers are removed into Corners*, and *their Eyes cannot behold them*, nor receive Comfort from their holy, lively, and ſound Doctrine; but far more lamentable and deplorable is the Caſe, when it comes to that Paſs as in *Jer.* xii. 10. *Many Paſtors have deſtroyed my Vineyard, they have troden my Portion under Foot; they have made my pleaſant Portion a deſolate Wilderneſs:* And when *the Paſtors are become brutiſh*, (as is now the Caſe) *and knows not the Lord*; *the Watchmen blind and dumb, that they cannot tell what of the Night*, nor can *give faithful Warning* to the People, to avoid the Danger threatened, or avert the Judgments impendent, by *turning to him that ſmiteth*, with true Repentance and Faith unfeigned.

This is *Scotland*'s miſerable Condition this Day, that *her Rowers have brought her into deep Waters*; *they healed her Wounds ſlightly, crying, Peace, Peace, when there is no Peace:*

They have ſeen for her vain Viſions, and Cauſes of Baniſhment. The ſharp and ſevere Rebukes the Divine Diſpleaſure hath laid us under, theſe many Years, have cauſed great *Thoughts of Heart* to the Godly, whilſt profane Men, Mockers, and lax Profeſſors, have *ſhut their Arrows, even bitter Words*, againſt the Truth and its Owners, vaunting of their great Privileges, of Chriſtian Magiſtrates, learned Preachers, peaceable Poſſeſſions; and what not? But, Is there any ſuch *a Stranger in Iſrael*, in *Scotland*, that has *not known the Things that are come to paſs in theſe Days? The Wicked walk on every Side, when the vileſt of Men are exalted.* The Spirit of Giddineſs, Atheiſm, Idolatry and Profanity, ſpread, at a ſtrange Rate, through the Land, beyond all Parallel; yea, all Manner of Wickedneſs is not only tolerated, but encouraged, bloody Murderers pardoned by the *Antichriſtian* Court; Religion contemned, Hereſies and Sectaries on the growing Hand, the pure and glorious Goſpel ſlighted, *Antinomian* Tenets, and *Armenian* Hereſies are vented, and moral Harangues, legal Diſcourſes, (the Husks of Error) are hugged and embraced in its Room; by Means whereof, the Souls of People are ruined, the Power of Godlineſs, and the Life of real Religion, decayed; *the Love of many waxing cold*; the Edge of true Zeal worn off, and *Faith* ſcaree to be *found in the Earth:* And all theſe Evils, and many more do our Ears hear, and our Eyes behold, which are Matter of *Grief, Lamentation, Mourning and Wo*, &c.

It is the incumbent Duty of all, and every Perſon in theſe Lands, to *ſearch and try their Ways, and turn again to the Lord*, and to ſee where the *Achan* lyeth hid, and what is *the Cauſe of his great Anger*, that *his Wrath burns*

ſo

ſo ſore, and ſo long againſt theſe Lands. And although none can plead Exemption from Sin, and from having a Hand in the Provocation, either actively or paſſively, in meriting and procuring the ſame; yet there is a Spring, Head and Fountain, from whence all theſe impure Streams comes and flows, that poiſons and defiles the whole Land, *&c.*

By a diligent Scrutiny, and traſſing a little upwards, we will find, that *the wicked Adverſary and Enemy* (the Cauſe of all our Calamities and Miſeries) is, that wicked and malignant Throne, that unqualified and corrupt Magiſtracy, which has been ſo long a Plague and Scourge to theſe Lands; this is the Source from whence all our Maladies do ariſe and proceed; theſe are the *Jeroboams that have made Iſrael to ſin*; theſe are the *Achans* that make us to fall before the Enemy; theſe are the *Achabs* that *have ſold themſelves to do wickedly*, and compels others to do the like, together with a falſe, corrupt, *Eraſtian*, and apoſtate Church, who are the Hirelings that *enters not in* at *the Door*, *the falſe Prophets that teacheth Lies*, *they are the Tail*; theſe are the corrupt Prieſts that *have done Violence to the Law*, *changed the Ordinances*, and *broken the everlaſting Covenant*; theſe are *the Leaders of the People that cauſe them to err* from the Way of Truth, and *they that are led of them are deſtroyed*, and the poor blinded, unthinking, and deluded *People love to have it ſo:* But *what will they do in the End thereof? Where will they fly for Help?* And *where will they leave their* ill-gotten *Glory*, when the impendent Judgments ſhall *break forth as a terrible Tempeſt* upon theſe apoſtate Nations, *and conſume the Inhabitants thereof, and none ſhall quench it?*

Through-

Throughout all the diſmal State, and dark Periods of the manifeſt and manifold Defections of the Church and State, there have always been ſome who have witneſſed for the Truth, and teſtified againſt the Heaven-daring, and ſinful Courſes of theſe Lands, from Time to Time, as appears in the many Declarations, Remonſtrances, and Teſtimonies, publiſhed and exhibited to the World, tho' to ſmall Purpoſe, they being *mad upon their Idols*, and *bent to Backſliding*; ſo that nothing will ſtop their Career, but the Execution of Judgment: And we may join with the Prophet, in his Dehortation, *They are joined to their Idols, let them alone.*

Neither had we troubled ourſelves, or others, at this Time, with any Thing of this Nature, were it not, (beſides the old Weather-cock Preachers, of which the World is too full, and too much plagued) that there is a new Set of Mountebank-Harrangers, fitter for a Stage than a Pulpit, *an Increaſe of ſinful Men, to augment yet the Treſpaſs of Iſrael*, far *worſe than their Fathers*, both in Principle and Practice; and theſe intruded as Paſtors and Teachers, in ſeveral Places through the Land; ſome by wicked *Popiſh* Patrons, and others by the *Eraſtian* Church-judicatories; and ſome, again, by a new Sect, called, *The ſeceding Aſſociates*, who were formerly Co-builders of *Egyptian* Piramids, in Company with this *Laodicean* Church, till they were thrown out, as *unskilful in their Craft*, and not being Obſeques enough to their Task-maſters; and now they are towering up a *Babel* of their own, of the ſame Materials, Bricks from *Egypt*, and Sement from the malignant Throne, to make all ſtrong and ſure to their outward Eſtate and worldly Eaſe, as appears by their Principles, Practice and Papers: Moreover, ſome

ignorant

ignorant and malicious Perſons aſpers us, as being of their Confederacy, and Conſenters to their anti-ſcriptural Courſes; and alſo their being one Mr. *Gib*, to be intruded on, and ſettled as a Teacher in the Bounds in or about *Edinburgh*, where we reſide: Therefore, we hold ourſelves bound, in Conſcience and Duty, to declare to all the World, That we are none of that Number of Mongrels, nor confederate with the Combination of *ſelf-conſtituting Seceders*; but are true *Presbyterians*, holding and owning the Word of GOD to be our unerring Rule, in Principle and Practice, and adhering to the whole attained to Reformation, as the *Confeſſion of Faith*, our *Covenants*, *Declarations*, and *ſound Teſtimonies*, the *Ferry-Paper*, &c. And we are for electing, owning, and maintaining a true ſcriptural-qualified Magiſtracy, and a true ſound Goſpel-miniſtry, rightly called, and lawfully ordained by a lawful Miniſtry, when it can be had; and diſowns and rejects all Courſes and Practices that are inconſiſtent therewith, and contrary thereto

And we, as true *Presbyterians*, and Inhabitants in the Places and Bounds aforeſaid, do diſown, reject and teſtify againſt the ſaid Mr. *Adam Gib*, as a Paſtor or Teacher, and his being ſettled in theſe Bounds, &c. for theſe Grounds and Reaſons, briefly,

1*ſt*, Becauſe of his Lightneſs in Behaviour and Converſation, unſuitable to that high Calling which he intends, incouraged by corrupt Education, and cheriſhed by Company of the like Mould and Complexion with himſelf, which he delights in, as is evident to ſeveral Perſons with whom he ordinarily, or occaſionally converſes.

2*dly*, Pride and Self-conceit, as appears in his vaunting, and boaſting of his Parts and Gifts, and that he gains the Victory over them with whom he diſputes, and, in

the

the mean Time, he ſtops and interrupts them in ſpeaking the Truth, and himſelf goes on, at a great Length, in looſe and ſophiſtical Harrangues, either to darken the Truth, or confuſe the Perſons his Opponents; which is a ſhrewd Sign of a bad Cauſe, that cannot admit of a juſt and equal Hearing.

3*dly*, Groſs lying, as is evident; for, after he has ended his harranguing Diſcourſes for Error, he goes about and maligns, reproaches, and aſperſes the Perſons that oppoſe him, as *Hereticks* and *Arians*, &c. when, in the mean Time, they are far more *ſound in the Faith*, and all the Truths revealed in the holy Scripture, than himſelf, as is well known when their Principles and Practices are compared together: A Calumny ſo black, falſe and untrue, that one might thought, that very Shame (if there were no more) might deter him from the Crime.

4*thly*, He ſeems to be ignorant of the Sin and Duty of the Day, and careleſs and negligent in deſiring to know and underſtand the ſame, contenting himſelf with a Mode and Form, and Name of a Preacher, without conſidering the Weight and Worth of that *high Calling*, and the Account he has to give of Souls; nor ſtudying Self-denial and Humility, and labouring for that Subduedneſs of Spirit and Mortification, as becomes one of that Profeſſion, which appears in his whole *Decorum*.

5*thly*, He, the ſaid Mr. *Gib*, ſeems to be tented with *Hobb*'s and *Tindal*'s wicked and corrupt Principles, (two *Arch-hereticks*) in magnifying, ſetting up, and advancing depraved, corrupt, and imperfect Nature equal to, or above the perfect Law and Word of GOD, as appears in his often rejecting Arguments drawn from the divine Word, and flying to the weak Refuge of carnal Reaſon,

decayed

decayed and ruined Nature, to fetch Weapons from thence to defend his erroneous Tenets. If the all-wiſe GOD had ever thought, that our Reaſon and Nature, in our lapſed Condition ſince the Fall, were a ſufficient Guide and Rule to walk by, we had not heard of Revelation, and this Man is ſo fond of his Nature of Things, that the Truth, Weight, and Subſtance of divine Things, ſeems to bulk little in his Eye, and a ſmall Article in his Creed.

6thly, He is moſt corrupt and erroneous in the Doctrine of a ſcriptural Chriſtian Magiſtracy, moſt wickedly denying, that it hath any Thing to do with the Purchaſe of Chriſt, and pouring ſuch Contempt upon the holy Ordinance of Magiſtracy, that, according to him, it hath no more Inſtitution in the Word of GOD than Mechanicks have for their reſpective Trades: A bold and daring Untruth, and Impudence, ſcarce to be paralleled at *Rome* or *Lambeth*, when the contrary appears ſo fully and plainly in the divine Word! The Inſtitution and Qualifications relative to that Office, are as clearly ſet down, held forth, and ſpecified in the holy Scriptures, as, almoſt, any Truth within the Bible; and that they willingly *ſhut their Eyes*, and are afraid, that the Terror and Juſtice of a godly Magiſtrate will bear hard upon their Luſts and Errors, that makes him or them deny the ſame: For, to adduce Scripture-proof (for there is Plenty to that Purpoſe) to a Perſon that prefers his rotten Reaſon and blind Nature, before theſe lively Oracles, is but *caſting Pearls before Swine*, &c.

7thly, 'Tis a Qualification neceſſary in a Goſpel-miniſter, to be able to *divide the Word a-right*, and to give every one his Portion in *due Seaſon*; this ſeems to be wan-

ting

ting in this Man, as appears in his baſely abuſing and miſapplying holy Scripture, to ſupport a bad Cauſe, and defend a malignant Throne, and endeavouring to ſet the Scripture by the Ears, and to contradict itſelf, by wickedly applying the Threatenings of the Word againſt the Godly for their Duty, and takes the ſame Boldneſs with the precious Promiſes, to ſupport and encourage the Wicked in their ſinful Courſes, &c.

8*thly*, He ſeems to be poſſeſſed with a deceiving and ſeducing Spirit: He goeth ſtroling through the Land, and in his Preachments, and other Diſcourſes, publick and private, abuſing the People with falſe Gloſſes, and ſubtil ſophiſtical Diſtinctions, and inſtiling his corrupt Principles in them, and bantering others for their Stability in the Truth, and retaining their Integrity, and who will not receive his ſeducing Doctrine. Theſe Scriptures ſeem to be fulfilled in him, 2 *Theſ* ii. 11. *And for this Cauſe GOD ſhall ſend them ſtrong Deluſions, that they ſhould believe a Lie.* 2 Tim. iii. 13 *But evil Men and Seducers ſhall wax worſe and worſe, deceiving and being deceived*, &c.

9*thly*, Becauſe he is joined with, and is a Member of that Confederacy, and unlawful Combination of the *ſeceding Aſſociates*, who being in actual Confederacy with the ſacrilegious Throne of *Britain*, and they in ſtrict Confederacy with *Antichriſt* and his Limbs, and he with Satan and Hell, in a firm Aliance, they are alſo immerſed in, and guilty of all the Defections, Abominations, and Apoſtacies of this *Eraſtian* Church, and malignant State, ſince the Year 1660. to this Day, they owning and maintaining the Validity of their reſpective Conſtitutions, and all their Male-adminiſtrations in Government, and Errors in Practice, and, like *Samſon*'s Foxes, although their

their Heads be oppoſite, anent ſome circumſtantial Points, yet there is a Conjunction of Tails at the Center of the bloody Throne, which robs Chriſt of his Supremacy, and the Church of her Privileges, &c.

10*thly*, Becauſe he ſeems to be called to this Place by a corrupt and unqualified People, who have no Right to call a Goſpel-miniſter, becauſe many of them are guilty of ſcandalous Practices, and all of them of erroneous Principles; ſome are habitual Drunkards, others notorious Liars, Defrauders and Pelferers; and others, again, have taken ſinful and perjurious Oaths, everſive of our holy Covenants; and many of them are malicious Reproachers, Mockers and Tongue-perſecutors, and would alſo with the Hands, if they had Power; and all, and every one of them, are blemiſhed with, and involved in all the wicked and ſinful Courſes of the Times, one Way or other, as is evident by occular Demonſtration, &c.

11*thly*, In our Covenanting Days, it was enacted and ordained, by the faithful General Aſſemblies of the Church of *Scotland*, "That all and every Entrant, at his "or their Entry to the holy Miniſtry, ſhould take and "ſubſcribe the National, and Solemn League and Cove-"nants, as one Part of their Qualification for that Of-"fice." But this Man neither will, nor can take theſe ſacred Oaths and Covenants, in Regard he is, in Principle and Practice, carrying on a ſinful Courſe of Defection, diametrically oppoſite to theſe ſacred Bonds; and therefore he can be no true *Preſbyterian* Miniſter of the Covenanted Church of *Scotland*, &c.

12*thly*, Becauſe he, the ſaid Mr. *Gib*, is inſtalled and ordained by Perſons, who are no lawful *Miniſters of the Word*, nor are, nor can be a lawful Church-judicatory of

the

the true *Presbyterian* Church of *Scotland*, in Reſpect they want the ſound Principles, due and right Qualifications, that they ought to have, to enable and capacitate them to conſtitute themſelves into a Church-judicatory; and yet, without theſe Qualifications and ſound Principles, they have audaciouſly preſumed to conſtitute themſelves into a Judicatory, wanting not only the Warrant of the divine Word for their ſo doing, but alſo the Authority of a lawful ſuperior Church-judicatory, to ſtrengthen and authoriſe their Conſtitution. They and their Conſtitution are built upon the ſame *Eraſtian* Foundation; they have the ſame Principles, the ſame *Claim of Right*, the ſame ſinful Oaths of *Allegiance*, *Aſſurance* and *Abjuration*, and other Enormities, with their indulged, *Laodicean* Brethren, that enjoys Kirks and Stipends; they drive all one Courſe of Apoſtaſy; they are all Enemies to the preſent State of the Teſtimony, and Duty of the Day; they are all Hinderers and Retarders of the Work of GOD, and reviving of our glorious Reformation: They have all one Head, *to wit*, the ſacrilegious Occupant upon the Throne of *Britain*, who robs Chriſt of his Supremacy, and ſuſpends the divine Laws, pardons Murderers, dictates Faſts, with their Cauſes, and preſcribes a Form of Prayer, to be obſerved by his Clients of all Sorts, and moſt wickedly commands the Breach and Profanation of the holy *Sabbath*, by reading ſinful and bloody Acts under ſevere Penalties, *&c.* And adding to all his other Sins, the ſupporting and defending the bloody Houſe of *Auſtria*, which hath been the greateſt Scourge, Plague and Ruin, to the *Proteſtant* Churches in *Europe*, than any *Beaſt of Prey* that ever devoured her in the World.

And

And he is aſſiſted in that Deſign by his ſervile and bribed Parliament, to his and their everlaſting Diſgrace. Is it likely, that the *Britiſh* Occupant will be honoured to be one of thoſe Kings, that are propheſied of, that *ſhall hate the Whore, and burn her Fleſh with Fire*, when he defends the chief Pillar of *Antichriſt*'s Kingdom, of whom GOD, in his Juſtice, hath ſwept away fifteen Male-tygers of that accurſed Family? And that the remaining two Tygereſſes ſhould be protected, to breed up a new Spawn of ravenous Beaſts, to be a further Plague to the World, is moſt ſhoaking: Inſtead of defending and protecting them, Juſtice requires, that theſe Daughters of *Heath* ſhould be dealt with as the *Engliſh* did with the Maid of *Orleans*. If our Occupant were a true *Chriſtian*, and a real *Proteſtant*, he would have no Manner of Communication with *Papiſts*, at home or abroad, far leſs would enter into League or Confederacy with them, and leaſt of all, to protect or defend them, on any Pretence whatſomever, but on forſaking of their Idolatry, being the worſt and groſſeſt that ever was ſince the World began.

All theſe, and many more Heaven-daring Crimes, are chargeable upon the Throne of *Britain*, and its Poſſeſſors and Supporters. And how terrible is it, that they ſhould find any reaſonable Perſons, to yield ſuch blind Obedience to their ſinful Mandates? Such a Practice will undoubtedly bring Ruin and Deſtruction upon both Commander and Obeyer, except they repent. How unparalleledly unfaithful are the indulged and aſſociate Miniſters, not only to the Souls of the People they pretend to be under their Charge, but alſo to the miſerable Occupant upon the Throne, whom they never warn of the terrible Danger he is in, and the capital Crimes he is guilty of, but lets him rnn headlong

to

to his eternal Ruin of Soul and Body? Whoſe Blood, and all the other Souls that are under their Charge, that periſhes through their Default, for want of faithful Admonition and ſeaſonable Warning, will be required at their Hands, whatever they think or ſay to the contrary.

Finally, Upon all which Grounds and Reaſons, and many more that might be given, we, as above, do ſolemnly proteſt, utterly reject, and declare againſt the calling, inſtalling, ordaining, and ſettling the ſaid Mr. *Adam Gib*, as Paſtor and Teacher, in any Place in, about, or near *Edinburgh*; and that he neither is, nor can be a Paſtor to any that owns, and maintains the Cauſe of CHRIST, and Teſtimony of the Day: And him we hold and eſteem, and all ſuch of the like Principle and Practice, to be Uſurpers of the holy Office of the Miniſtry, and Intruders in the Places where-ever he or they exerciſe the ſame, and ſhall be dealt with as ſuch in due Time; and ſuch Meaſures taken as will give a Check to the like Courſes, that others may be deterred from running unto, and trading in the ſame deſtructive Paths, without a Call from GOD, and from a qualified People, and a lawful and regular Ordination from true Goſpel-miniſters. *Mal.* ii. 8, 9. *But ye are departed out of the Way: Ye have cauſed many to ſtumble at the Law: Ye have corrupted the Covenant of Levi, ſaith the LORD of Hoſts. Therefore have I alſo made you contemptible, and baſe before all the People, according as ye have not kept my Ways, but have been partial in the Law*, &c.

26 JU 57

FINIS.